

## A Message from the Director

Our unique federal city continues to feel the positive results from increased construction, expansion and collaboration. Stennis Space Center is seeing tremendous growth by our existing tenants, and we continue to welcome new agencies, companies and groups to the Stennis family.

In 2000, employment figures at the center reached nearly 4,600. And, the fiscal year 2000 economic impact figures showed that Stennis Space Center had a direct global impact of \$615 million, with an impact of \$438 million on local areas within a 50-mile radius.

Currently, the replacement value of Stennis Space Center is in the proximity of \$2 billion. However, one cannot place a value on the number of lives touched daily by the programs and missions of all the agencies at Stennis. Our facility and the many employees who work here can be proud of our growth and prosperity, and equally as proud of the important work they do every day to heighten the quality of life for our surrounding communities.

During this past year, the NASA team successfully tested and delivered all the main engines required to support the shuttle flight schedule. This included completing the certification testing for the new configuration Block II engine. This was done in addition to very active NASA and commercial test programs that continue to utilize all of Stennis Space Center's test facilities.

In 2000, the Boeing Company dedicated its new \$11 million RS-68 Engine Assembly Facility at Stennis Space Center, underscoring an unprecedented government/industry partnership. The assembly plant's opening marked the first time engines will be assembled and tested at Stennis.



Also, a new high-tech aerospace park is being constructed at Stennis by the state of Mississippi. The first major occupant will be Lockheed Martin Corporation's Advanced Propulsion, Thermal and Metrology Center that will create 270 new jobs.

Stennis has also been selected as the site for the Space-Based Laser Performance Test Facility. This facility will demonstrate the technical feasibility of a Space-Based Laser missile defense system for the Department of Defense. The project is expected to eventually create 1,000 jobs and have a total economic benefit on surrounding areas of about \$100 million over five years.

In addition, a \$25-million construction project is under way for the Department of Defense's Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School and Special Boat Unit 22 facilities in support of Navy SEAL activities.

The future is certainly bright for Stennis Space Center. Each day we take pride in meeting the challenges of providing excellent customer service and meeting the needs of the American taxpayers who deserve and expect high returns on their investments.

Roy S. Estess